contracts and only incase of emergent requirements, purchases from local markets are authorised for which competitive tenders/ quotations are invited. Existing system of purchases followed by MES is functioning smoothly.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद

2285. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार "राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद" का पुनर्गठन करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(ख) क्या सरकार पाकिस्तान द्वारा "गौरी" और "गजनवी" प्रक्षेपास्त्रों की क्षमता हासिल करने के बाद सरकार भारत के लिए समेकित राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी उपायों और प्रबंधों के बारे में विचार करने तथा इस संबंध में उठाए गए कदमों के बारे में सारे राष्ट्र को विश्वास में लेने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) जी, हां। पुनर्गठन की तारीख टास्क फोर्स की सिफारिशों पर लिए जाने वाले निर्णयों पर निर्भर करेगी। टास्क फोर्स ने अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार को पहले की प्रस्तुत कर दी है।

(ख) सरकार देश की सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव डालने वाली सभी घटनाओं की लगातार समीक्षा करके समुचित रक्षोपाय करती है और भारत के विरुद्ध विनाशकारी हथियारों का इस्तेमाल या उनके इस्तेमाल करने के खतरे के विरुद्ध कारगर प्रतिरोधक उपायों का सृजन करती है।

पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में सेना में भर्ती

2286. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्तमान सरकार ने सेना में सामान्य भर्ती के संबंध में पूर्वोत्तर के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों पर विशेष ध्यान देने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्रों की तरह उत्तरांचल की विषम भौगोलिक स्थितियों पर उपयुक्त ध्यान देते हुए उसके लिए भर्ती के कोटे में वृद्धि करने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों की प्रतिविद्रोही समस्या और इस तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि ये राज्य उन्हें आवंटित रिक्तियों का पूरी तरह से उपभोग नहीं कर पाते हैं, इन राज्यों में सेना में भर्ती के वास्ते विशेष अभियान शुरू किए जा रहे हैं ताकि स्थानीय युवा वर्ग को राष्ट्रीय मुख्यधारा में शामिल किए जाने के लिए प्रेरित किया जा सके।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) इस समय उत्तरांचल से सेना में भरती उस क्षेत्र के वास्ते तय की गई भरती योग्य युवा आबादी के हिस्से से अधिक है। इसलिए इस क्षेत्र में विशेष अभियान चलाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

Nuclear tests by India

2287. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has recently conducted three underground nuclear tests and the Trishul missile test; if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether international community, particularly US, China and Britain have strongly protested India's nuclear test and threatened to impose sanctions against India; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government would defend their stance on such tests?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) On May 11 and 13, 1998 India successfully completed a planned series of 5 nuclear tests. The devices that were tested in the series were:

(i) an optimised fission devise, based on the 1974 design, with a yield of 15 KT;

(ii) a thermonuclear devise with a yield of 45 KT, appropriate to the available shaft; and

(iii) 3 "sub-kilotonne" devices using new materials and concepts.

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Trishul is a surface-to-air multi-role missile with a 9 km range having quick re-action time. A developmental flight trial of Trishul was conducted on May 11, 1998.

(b) Some countries such as USA, Canada, Japan and Australia have criticised India's Nuclear tests. Some countries have announced economic measures against India.

(c) Government have taken all steps necessary to explain the rationale underlying the decision to conduct the tests. Government has taken all possible steps to explain to various countries our unique record of restraint and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament. All efforts are being made to project our policies of restraint and responsible conduct to various countries.

Third Indo-US Defence Policy Group Meeting

2288. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the third Indo-US Defence Policy Group Meeting scheduled in November was postponed because of protocol problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what had been the position in earlier two meetings in regard to protocol of attending officials;

(d) the reasons for taking such a stand this time; and

(e) wheth - the meeting has since been held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) During the visit of the US Secretary of Defence Mr. William Perry to India in January 1995, it was agreed that there would be periodic consultations between the US Department of Defence and the Indian Ministry of Defence. These Policy Group meetings could include representatives from other Government agencies and departments from both sides as necessary. No specific levels were formally identified. This in-built flexibility in the arrangement enables the two sides to nominate officials as deemed appropriate and necessary from time to time. No dates have been fixed for the third meeting of the Defence Policy Group.

Unfit Submarines

2289. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of submarines unfit/damaged or not working at present and the causes therefor;

(b) whether it is not affecting the security and what steps Government propose to take, including acquisition of atomic prowered submarines; and

(c) whether India has the missile which can be launched from the submarine; if not, by when we are going to develop it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are no unfit/damaged or non-working submarines with Indian Navy.

Regular preventive maintenance of submarines is undertaken in a planned manner during their operating life. Further, acquisition/modernisation of submarines is undertaken on a continuous basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction.

It will not be appropriate to disclose further details in the interest of our national security.

Recruitment of Jawans

2290. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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